

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 2 PAGES 33-84 APRIL-JUNE 1997

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

*President*

David W. Moore

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$23

Sustaining (yearly) \$50

Family (yearly) \$25

Life (one payment) \$500

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*After 10 a.m.*

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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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# Welcome, New Members

## Ottawa Area

J. David Andrews	Catherine Lefebvre and Family
Marc J. Bosc and Family	Jackie Leger
Barbara Brookes	Buisa Lelo
Jocelyn E. Cabilite	Eric and Nancy Lerhe
Joy Craigie	Stuart A. Milc
Kevin J. Deevy	Bernie W. Muncaster and Family
Gilles Dufresne and Family	Don Myrick and Family
G. A. Fox and Family	Nigel H. Saint and Family
Jane E. Gledhill and Family	Bodo and Stanka Stavric
Sandra Goodick	B. L. Van der Giessen
Virginia R. Kaye	Christine Wong

## Other Areas

Jean Gagnon, Quebec QC  
Katherine M. and Nancy Kitching, Chatham QC  
Natalie Lynn McMaster, Wolfville NS  
C. Michener, Golden Lake ON  
Derrick Romain, Iroquois Falls ON

We welcome back Courtney S. Gilliatt and his Family. Courtney was a very active Club member from 1970 to 1992, serving on Council and on the Finance Committee.

Questions or comments about anything to do with our Club are always most welcome and will be responded to promptly.

P.J. "Mickey" Narraway  
Membership Chair

February, 1997



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## "Golden Anniversary"

### Membership List 1930-1997

*P. J. "Mickey" Narraway  
Membership Chair*

- joined in 1930 Dr. W.E. Ricker, Nanaimo, BC  
1933 Loris S. Russell, Toronto, ON  
1934 C.H. Kindle, Upper Nyack, NY USA  
1935 J.E.V. Goodwill, Victoria, BC  
1936 W.H. Minshall, London, ON  
1941 T.H. (Tom) Manning, Merrickville, ON  
1941 Dr. Pauline Snure, Ottawa, ON  
1942 R.Yorke Edwards, Victoria, BC  
1943 Dr. C. Stuart Houston, Saskatoon, SK  
1943 Mrs. Sheila Thomson, Ottawa, ON  
1944 Mrs. Verna McGiffin, Pakenham, ON  
1944 Dr. H. M. Raup, Petersham, MA USA  
1944 Dr. D.B.O. (Doug) Savile, Ottawa, ON  
1944 Miss Mary E. Stuart, Ottawa, ON  
1946 Dr. N. Polunin, Switzerland  
1946 Dr. C. Frankton, Ottawa, ON  
1946 Dr. J. M. Gillett, Ottawa, ON  
1946 Dr. V.E.F. Solman, Ottawa, ON  
1947 W. J. "Bill" Cody, Ottawa, ON  
1947 Dr. W. A. Fuller, Athabaska, AB  
1947 W. Earl Godfrey, Ottawa, ON

This year, 1997, we are able to add three names to our "GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY" membership list, Dr. W. A. Fuller of Athabaska AB and two well-known local residents, Bill Cody and Earl Godfrey. They have been sent a letter of pleasure and congratulations along with a silver Club pin.

Bill Cody is an Honorary member since 1978 and has served as the Club's Business Manager for more than 25 years, he serves on the Club Council and does most of the back-ground work for the Canadian Field Naturalist.

Earl Godfrey has been an Honorary member prior to 1978. His "Birds of Canada" is the definitive book for Canadian birders but arguably more important is his influence on so many of our artists, researchers, teachers and parks and wildlife people. Earl is always delighted to compare notes with local birders who are lucky to meet him somewhere along the trail.¤

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# The 118th Annual Business Meeting

*Dave Smythe*

The 118th Annual Business Meeting of the OFNC was held in the Auditorium of the Canadian Museum of Nature on Tuesday evening January 14, 1997. President Dave Moore chaired the meeting, with 42 members present, a modest but encouraging increase in attendance over the past two years.

After allowing a half-hour for review of the documents on the agenda, Dave called the meeting to order. The minutes of the 117th Business Meeting were adopted without change, and there was no business arising from them.

Treasurer Gillian Marston presented the financial statements, once again noting a favourable report from the Club's Auditor, Janet Gehr. The Members Equity decreased from \$233,483 to \$212,315, partly because of the publication of the Taverner biography in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and partly because of increased operating expenses. When Council approved the publication of the Taverner biography, it recognized that there would be a loss of income because publication charges were waived. Gillian noted that publication costs have increased and that this may be a trend that should be monitored closely.

The de Kiriline-Lawrence Fund, established to support conservation action, has increased from \$12,749 to \$15,432 from the sale of Club items and donations.

The Committee reports are fairly brief by necessity, but a request from the President for comments and questions failed to elicit a single response. Perhaps we need to introduce some controversy! The full text of the reports will be published in a forthcoming issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* so what follows includes only the highlights. I have not included the activities of the Awards Committee which were covered in the July-September 1996 issue of *T&L*.

In addition to its regular activities of conducting Bird Counts and maintaining the Bird Status Line, the Rare Bird Alert, the Annual Seedathon, five bird feeding stations, and providing field trip leaders and articles for *T&L*, the Birds Committee was involved in two new projects this year. Planning was started for a birding contest for school-age children, to promote interest in birding and to

foster field skills. The Committee also participated in the trial run of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Taverner Cup competition and the planning and organization for the 1997 competition.

For the Computer Management Committee, 1996 was a year for upgrading the hardware of the *T&L* publishing team, and modifying the system used by the Editor of the *CFN* to permit electronic mail for communication with authors across Canada. The Committee also successfully converted the previous manual accounting system to a computer based system and is planning for the integration of the accounting and membership databases.

The Conservation Committee represented the Club on various conservation issues by its participation on local advisory groups, focus groups, and working groups and by making submissions to Municipal, Provincial, and Federal agencies.

The Education & Publicity Committee provided information booths at the Ottawa Boat & Sportsman Show, the Ottawa Home Show, and Environment Week and provided judges for the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. It also assisted in many events at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden where it now maintains a permanent display.

The Excursions & Lectures Committee organized 62 events in 1996 including eight monthly meetings, six one-day bus excursions, (Presqu'ile, Derby Hill, Montreal Botanical Gardens, Chaffey's Locks, Cooper Marsh and Gatineau Park), a weekend outing to Algonquin Park, and two indoor workshops.

This was a year of major improvements to the physical environment and the Interpretive Centre of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. The Model Backyard Garden was virtually completed, the sedge meadow has become an amphibian pond, and major plantings were made in the new woods. The Interpretative Centre now has additional furniture, external security lighting, new exhibits and printed material, and serves both as a focus for Garden activities and as a meeting place for Council and Committees.

In May, The Bill Holland Trail was dedicated, and the first Taverner Cup competition was held. It is hoped that in future years, the competition will help fund Garden operations.

The Garden received grants of \$2,400 from the Friends of the Environment Foundation and \$1000 from Consumers Gas. In June, The City of Ottawa awarded the Club, through the Garden, its first Environmental Achievement Award for its development of the Garden.

The Macoun Field Club had another successful year of lectures, workshops, and field trips. Recruitment at the youngest age levels is falling and the Committee is concerned that this will cause problems in the years ahead.

Membership in the OFNC was down slightly from 1995, but still hovers slightly above the 1000 level as it has in the past few years. Two Honorary members, Claude Garton and Bill Dore, passed away and will be missed. Four members were added to the "Golden Anniversary List;" Dr. N. Polunin, Clarrie Frankton, Jack Gillett, and Vic Solman.

The Publications Committee always produces an impressive list of statistics that defines its publication of the *CFN* and *T&L*, but the highlights of the year were the two special issues of the *CFN*: "The History of the Exploration of the Vascular Flora of Canada, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and Greenland" and "A Life with Birds: Percy A. Taverner, Canadian Ornithologist, 1875-1947." On the recommendation of the Committee, the Council approved a further \$1,000 (for a total of \$3,000) towards the publication costs of the "Butterflies of Canada" by Hall, Lafontaine, and Layberry.

Mike Murphy gave a presentation on the history of the Birds Committee, describing how it evolved from an "Ornithology Branch" in the very early years, a Bird Census Committee in the 1910's, separate Bird Records and Bird Feeder Committees in 1971, to the present Committee in 1980.

Dave Moore informed the meeting that the Club had been honoured twice in 1996; by the City of Ottawa (previously mentioned) and by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists which awarded the Club the 1996 Richards Natural History Education Award for its work in publishing the *CFN* (see article by Pope, this issue).

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Chairman Frank Pope introduced a proposed slate of candidates for the 1997 Council. He explained that despite advertising widely for a Treasurer, no nominations or expressions of interest were forthcoming and the Committee was unable to offer a candidate for the position at this time. The following slate was proposed and approved by the meeting (new members are indicated by an asterisk and chairmanship of a committee is noted in brackets):

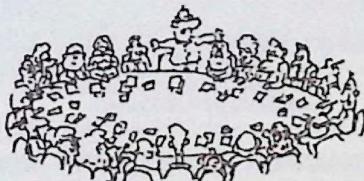
President	Dave Moore
Vice-President	Michael Murphy (Conservation)
Vice-President	(vacant)
Recording Secretary	Dave Smythe
Corresponding Secretary	Lee Cairnie
Treasurer	(vacant)

## Council Members

Ron Bedford (Publications)	*Philip Martin (Excursions & Lectures)
*Stephen Bridgett	Patricia Narraway (Membership)
Fenja Brodo	*Isobel Nicol
Bill Cody	Frank Pope (Nominations)
Francis Cook	Tom Reeve
Ellaine Dickson	(Education & Publicity)
*Barbara Gaertner	*Stan Rosenbaum
Alan German (Computer Management)	Chris Traynor (Birds)
Jeff Harrison (Fletcher Wildlife)	Ken Young (Finance)
	*Eleanor Zurbrigg

Seven members of the 1996 Council chose not to stand for re-election: Eileen Evans, Colin Gaskill, Christine Hanrahan, Cendrine Huemer, Anne MacKenzie, Gillian Marston, and Jane Topping. Frank thanked them for their service on Council and said that he was certain they would continue to contribute in other ways.

Postscript – At the Council meeting on January 20, Tom Reeve was nominated and approved to fill the second position of Vice-President. ☺



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## OFNC Committees for 1997

*Frank Pope*

Here are the names of the members who will be operating your Club in 1997. Committee chairs appear in bold letters with their telephone numbers. Should you have any questions, comments, complaints or compliments pertaining to the operations of a committee, please speak to a member of the relevant committee or give the chair a call.

**AWARDS**

Stephen Darbyshire  
(231-5458)  
Enid Frankton  
Cendrine Huemer  
Isabel Nicol  
Ken Taylor

**COMPUTER****MANAGEMENT**  
Alan German (747-9668)

Stephen Bridgett  
Donna Hutchings  
Michael Murphy  
Thomas Reeve

**EDUCATION &  
PUBLICITY**

Thomas Reeve (724-4786)  
Betty Campbell  
Douglas Crombie  
Kathryn Currie  
Don Davidson  
Jean McGugan  
Cheryl McJannet  
David Reeve

**EXCURSIONS &  
LECTURES**

Philip Martin (729-3218)  
Robina Bennett  
Sandra Dashney  
Ellaine Dickson  
Eileen Evans  
Colin Gaskell  
Carol German  
Rick Leavens  
Catherine O'Keefe

**FINANCE**

Ken Young (724-9814)  
Ron Bedford  
Bill Cody  
Don Davidson

**BIRDS**

Chris Traynor (273-4714)  
Ken Allison  
Tony Beck  
Colin Bowen  
Laurie Consaul  
Bruce Di Labio  
Cendrine Huemer  
Bernie Ladouceur  
Christine Lewis  
Larry Neily  
Marianne Neily  
Daniel Perrier  
Gordon Pringle  
Daniel St. Hilaire  
Bev Scott  
Michael Tate  
Eve Ticknor

**FLETCHER WILDLIFE  
GARDEN**

Jeff Harrison (730-5968)  
(also represents  
Friends of the Farm)  
Sandy Garland  
Peter Hall  
Christine Hanrahan  
Ken Young

Janice Ife  
(representing  
Landscape Ontario)

**MACOUN FIELD CLUB**

Rob Lee (623-8123)  
Martha Camfield  
Laurie Consaul  
Stephen Darbyshire  
Barbara Gaertner  
Diane Kitching  
Christine Lewis  
Paule Ouellet  
Kim Sayers

**CONSERVATION**

Michael Murphy  
(727-1739)  
Lynne Bricker  
Claudia Burns  
Ray Chipeniuk  
Carolyn Dunlop  
Lynn Gillespie  
Ian Huggett  
James Kuhns  
Mary McWhinney  
Krista Makkay  
Peter Mix  
Stanley Rosenbaum  
Sonya Sawchuck  
David Seburn  
Ewen Todd

**MEMBERSHIP**

Mickey Narraway  
(596-1677)  
Eileen Evans  
Wanda Johnson  
Elisabeth Kanasy  
Ada Scott  
Dave Smythe

**NOMINATING**

Frank Pope (829-1281)  
Ellaine Dickson  
Colin Gaskell

**PUBLICATIONS**

Ron Bedford (733-8826)  
Fenja Brodo  
Bill Cody  
Francis Cook  
Elizabeth Morton  
Joyce Reddoch

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# Richards Natural History Education Award

*Frank Pope*



*Seated in front of the elegant trophy awarded to our Club are Bill Cody (left, Business Manager) and Francis Cook (Editor of the CFN); standing are Dave Moore (left, OFNC President) and Ron Bedford (chairman of Publications Committee).*

The Richards Natural History Education Award was presented to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club at the 65th Anniversary Dinner of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in Toronto on November 7th, 1996. Accepting the big silver trophy on our behalf was Bill Cody.

The award was presented to us in recognition of the contribution made by our scientific journal, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, especially two recent special issues, one devoted to the botanical exploration of Canada and the other to ornithologist Percy Taverner. Supplemental funding was required to publish these special issues and, upon a recommendation by the Publications Committee, the Council decided to provide these supplemental funds from our financial reserves. Much of the success of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* over the

last half of this century is due to Francis Cook, our longest serving editor, and Bill Cody, the business manager. We are pleased to see their efforts officially recognized as of provincial significance. □

---

## American Elm

*Frederick W. Schueler*

Kemptville College promotes the disease-resistant  
Liberty™ Elm from  
New Hampshire.

Gnarly, unsplittable  
Bark-pile, Flicker-home, block matrons  
DED and gone.

Undulant teenage mothers  
Shake willowy locks  
Along Buckthorn fence rows.

Summer-golden skeletal sisters  
Slough strappy skin  
And broken branches.

Maynard Smith's springtime seeds  
Live Free or Die *in situ*;  
Darwinian horticulture.

DED refers to Dutch Elm Disease.

John Maynard Smith is an ecologist and author of the "Oyster-Elm Tree Model" showing how the doubled investment required by sexual reproduction is offset by the selective advantage that genetic recombination gives the few survivors of an enormous number of offspring in some regimes different from that experienced by the parents.

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## FON Notes

*Frank Pope*

Few members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club are also members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON). Through a series of FON notes in *T&L* I would like to introduce the FON to those who are not FON members.

The FON has two categories of membership, one for individuals and the other for organizations. Our Club, as an organization, is a "Federated Member." Recognizing the importance of the FON to us, the Club contributes annual dues of 75 cents per member resident in Ontario.

Why is the FON important to us? Essentially, the FON is our watch dog and advocate at Queens Park. Natural resources are primarily a provincial responsibility, therefore, our best hope to protect natural areas is through provincial legislation. We need a strong voice in Toronto. Actually, a group of local naturalists' clubs established the FON in 1931 for just this purpose. An example will illustrate our experience of support from the FON. We were trying to buy a large tract of land in Alfred Bog, a provincially significant wetland threatened by development. The OFNC set up a fund to buy the land and mounted a funding drive. At the very beginning, when funding was critical, the FON came in with \$40,000. Through a remarkable combination of circumstances we were successful in buying this land. Our Club continues to contribute toward the purchase of land in Alfred Bog and to date we probably have contributed over \$20,000.

What has the FON been doing recently? I will mention a few of the more significant items.

\* At a meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) the FON co-sponsored the following resolution related to the Temagami experience. "The World Conservation Union, at its First World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada, 13-23 October 1996: CALLS ON the Province of Ontario to adopt the recommendation of the local planning Council to protect the headwater forests of key rivers and lakes north of and east of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park: CALLS ON IUCN members and the Director General to urge the Province of Ontario to adopt a provincial protected areas strategy that protects its best remaining natural areas, and the roadless wilderness and old-growth ecosystems that they contain." This resolu-

tion was adopted almost unanimously with Canada abstaining (upon the advice of Ontario).

- \* The FON produced a tabloid entitled "End of the Road: Ontario's Roadless Wilderness" and distributed it in quantity to publicize the disappearance of wilderness that has never been penetrated by a logging road.
- \* Lyal Island, a 300 hectare island off the west coast of the Bruce Peninsula has been acquired as an FON Nature Reserve.
- \* The FON is working towards establishing an Ontario Nature Trust to hold nature reserves, starting with the FON nature reserves, and to facilitate land stewardship in the province.
- \* Two Citizen Guides, one for protecting wetlands and woodlands and another for forest management, have been produced and one for park management planning will be out soon.
- \* A brochure to help people cope with bears has been produced.

The FON has been working toward improving its governing structure for some time now. Jane Topping, Club member and Vice President of the FON has been active in this effort. Half the Board of Directors is now elected from individual members at large and the other half represent member clubs. The clubs have been grouped into eight regional councils. Each regional council sends one member to the Board. We belong to the Ottawa-Frontenac regional council and Peter Goddard of the Mississippi Valley Naturalists is our representative on the FON Board. I represent our Club on the regional council.

Aside from these activities the FON has an elaborate member service program. They publish "Seasons," a good quarterly nature magazine. The "Econet" pilot project is now in its second year. It is intended to support educators and it consists of teacher workshops, a toll free telephone help line, a web site, and a series of brochures. A program of nature excursions is available (mostly in central Ontario) and the FON is associated with Quest Nature Tours. A highlight of the year is the annual conference which is held in a different location each year.

If you have any questions about the FON, please give me a call at 829-1281. ☺

---

# What's New at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden?

*Christine Hanrahan*



Spring is here and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden is beginning to bloom! Why not join us on April 19 when we begin our new season with a celebration of Earth Day featuring special guest Mike Runtz, who will be talking about birds, the topic of his latest book, "Wild Wings" (see Coming Events).

The garden is ever-changing, not only on a seasonal basis but from year to year. The greatly expanded Model Backyard Garden, for example, offers some interesting new features such as a woodland walk. (See "Progress in the Backyard Garden of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden" in this issue.)

If you haven't seen the big pond near the baseball diamond lately, you might be surprised at how much it now resembles a natural rather than a human-made pond, with its luxuriant growth of cattails and emerging sedges. A variety of zoological aquatic life seem to like it just fine, and in season, frogs, turtles, dragonflies, and other critters may be found.

The undergrowth in the old woodlot is now quite high and thick, providing a more wildlife-friendly habitat. We're especially pleased that some native shrubs have established themselves. And with a little help from our friends, native wild-flowers are also putting down roots. If you're a birder, check out the woods during spring migration, there is usually a lot of activity.

The butterfly meadow is always a visual feast; each season brings dramatic changes. How many species of plants can you identify at this one spot? If you're looking for ideas for your butterfly garden, this is the place to come. And of course, there are butterflies here – in season.

Be sure to check out the bulletin board on the front of the Interpretive Centre. This is where we post our schedule of open houses, our newsletter, and any other information we think might be of interest.

If you drop by the centre and the door is open - come on in! There will usually be fresh coffee, informative displays, books, journals, and posters for sale, and someone to talk to. And this year, thanks to the very generous donation of Jean Valliant of Vancouver, we will be purchasing many more books for our reference library which is available for browsing.

We have a brand new Checklist of Butterflies of the Ottawa Region and we'll soon have a couple of new brochures: a general guide to the FWG, and an interpretive trail guide. Watch for them!

Several events are planned for the spring, so check the Coming Events section of this issue. We look forward to meeting you at the FWG this year, where you can learn how to be "wild in the city." □

---

## Progress in the Backyard Garden of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden

*Gillian Boyd*



*The Backyard Garden, September 9, 1996*

In June 1996 I took on the responsibility of making improvements to the back-yard garden. In addition to the regular maintenance, a dedicated band of volunteers worked extremely hard at taking up grass, digging out tenacious perennial weeds, shovelling and moving countless loads of soil, gravel, rocks, stones and sand and also moving assorted shrubs and plants.

On 20 August, 'Turf's Up,' a member of the Ottawa Chapter of Landscape Ontario, came and took up more grass for two new island beds, and dug beds along the front and side of the building. 'Turf's Up' also laid an attractive new and larger patio and dug out entrenched weeds along the north side of the garden. Much of this work was generously paid for by Landscape Ontario.

So far we have realigned some of the existing beds, enlarged others, extended the rockery, softened and planted round the pond, made a wildflower bank, a butterfly bed, a shade bed, another raised bed and a gravel area for scree planting by the patio. We have also created a woodland area along the edge of the ravine, using surplus grass sod to build out a plateau from the lower slope.

All these areas have been partially or wholly filled with plants that were bought, collected or donated by volunteers and friends. As well, many plants were very generously provided by Karen Carriere at 'Centre Commons Perennials' in Newington and Kristl Walek at 'Gardens North' in North Gower.

Lack of time and money meant we could not complete all the beds as planned last year. This year, funds permitting, we hope to plant a scented bed beside the patio as well as finish off the few remaining areas, get some benches, put up trellises and have labels made.

We still have gaps to fill. If readers have any of the following to spare, would you please let me know:

bearberry  
clove pink  
hepatica  
marsh marigold  
wild water-lillies

blue cohosh  
Dutchman's breeches  
Jack-in-the-pulpit  
partridge berry

bloodroot  
goatsbeard  
lavender  
Virginia bluebell

I'd be glad to hear of other offers of appropriate woodland, pond, scree or scented plants that we still lack. In addition, we'd gratefully welcome any donations toward the purchase of remaining plants or other garden necessities. (I'd also love to hear from any handy person who could make us two simple, made-to-measure trellises for the front of the building.)

One of the bonuses of working alone in the backyard garden for much of the summer was the wildlife that dropped by or kept me company. A friendly groundhog would come out in the afternoons and graze unconcernedly on the grass about 10 feet away. Chipmunks scampered about the rockery and bobbed in and out of minute holes and crevices; red squirrels crossed the garden more circumspectly, taking advantage of available cover. A young Cooper's Hawk flapped up out of the ravine onto a branch about 15 feet away and we must have been motionless, eye to eye, for all of half a minute. Catbirds relished the fruits of the serviceberry berries; thrashers swashbuckled under the more open shrubs. Barn Swallows gritted in the rockery sand and a flicker enjoyed a dustbath in the bare soil. Three frogs found the pond a congenial home and lurked in disguise in the duckweed; dragonflies hawked overhead. A gaunt young fox wandered up the trail and through the garden entrance a couple of times and a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks conducted an aerial drive out of the ravine and round the building. Monarch butterflies sailed over far less often than I would have liked, but Black Swallowtails were more frequent among the flowers.

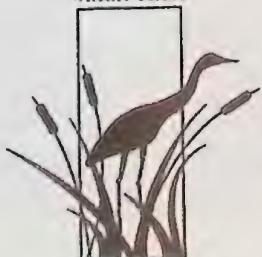
There were also many human visitors during the season who made favourable comments about what they saw. Some were regulars who had been coming for years; some were dogwalkers. Others, coming for the first time, said "we never knew there was a garden tucked away back here."

If you have not already done so, why not come and check us out this year and enjoy a garden on a glorious site with a wonderful view. Like Ken Stone, who watched a snapping turtle laying eggs near the blue spruce, you might be lucky enough to see some of the wildlife too!

You can reach Gillian Boyd, with suggestions, advice or offers of plants at 828-7886.

Donations for the garden, eligible for tax receipt, should be made payable to Fletcher Wildlife Garden, (earmarked Backyard Garden), c/o OFNC, Box 35069, Westgate PO, Ottawa K1Z 1A2.□

Jardin écologique  
Fletcher  
Wildlife Garden



---

# Hopkin's Hole

W. G. Dore<sup>1</sup>



*Hopkins Hole. Photo by S. Darbyshire, 1996.*

The recent National Capital Commission brochure "Conceptual Plan – Gatineau Park" refers to Hopkin's Hole, and illustrates it, as if everybody knew all about it. It is not shown on any map and Hopkin's Hole is not mentioned in any gazetteer consulted, so documentation of this name is in order.

John S. Hopkins<sup>2</sup> was a student of Paul B. Sears at Wooster College, Ohio, taking his Master's in post-glacial ecology. He needed an undisturbed northern bog from which to get a pollen profile. He wrote to Dr. R. O. Earl<sup>3</sup> at the Biology Department, Queen's University, thinking that Kingston would be far

<sup>1</sup>This note was found by Stephen Darbyshire among Bill Dore's papers after his death in 1996. It is obviously a draft, written sometime in late 1976. As its contents are of interest to OFNC members, he probably intended to publish it in *T & L* after some polishing.

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Hopkins died in January of 1960.

<sup>3</sup>Letter from J. S. Hopkins to R. O. Earl, 6 April 1949.

enough north to find a good bog. Dr. Earl then wrote to me because the Collins Bay bog was of the calcareous type and had undoubtedly been disturbed by the annual visits of Queen's University students for the past five decades.

I thought about Mer Bleue, but knowing that it had been variously burnt, drained, bombed and exploited, I did not like to recommend it even though it was convenient, accessible, and Ottawa ecologists were keen to know more of its history. We got out the aerial photos and saw a small circular pond with a peripheral bog zone on the top of the Eardley escarpment, not far from the road northward from Eardley just beyond Ramsay Lake. None of my confreres had ever been into it so a party was immediately formed, including Bill Cody and myself, to explore it.

The bog was a "textbook" bog; a deep, circular pond of dark brown water, concentrically surrounded by a floating *Sphagnum*-heath mat, a zone of black spruce-larch and then upland forest, with all the typical bog species present. It was ideally viewed from a granite outcrop on one side.

I wrote officially to Hopkins saying we had located a representative bog on Canadian Shield terrain, about 30 miles from Ottawa and that it might be suitable for his study if he wished to come. Furthermore it was above the level of the Champlain Sea and should have a complete pollen record subsequent to deglaciation of this area (at this time we had no knowledge of the age before present for any deposit around Ottawa).

Hopkins was enthusiastic and arrived in late June of 1949 to begin his work. We got him a room at Eardley and he made lunches from things available at the local grocery store.

About two days after he had begun work I visited him at the bog. He had vials, labels and borer sections all spread about in the black spruce-larch zone where the peat would be deepest. He thought the peat was about 10 meters deep. Hopkins was in the usual state for anybody experiencing a northern bog in June on a warm still day at about 11:00 a.m. "How are you getting along?" "I'm getting out of this Hell Hole right now." (Modern insect repellents were not known until some years later).

When Canada hosted the IX International Botanical Congress in 1959 a field trip was scheduled to visit a typical Canadian bog (Bill Baldwin was irritated that we did not use the term "fen"). There was this unnamed bog on the picturesque escarpment and nobody had worked it except that student from Wooster, Ohio. Let's list it as "Hopkins' Hole." (The name has since had the apostrophe shifted). There is no doubt that Hopkin's Hole is "one of Gatineau Park's special places: a bog lake with a fringing community that warrants a

closer look" and it is properly rated under "zones of very high value for conservation." The NCC is to be commended for their concept of management of Gatineau Park and the whole world of environmental concern should be grateful that Hopkin's Hole is situated where it is.

In preparation for the congress tour, we wrote to Hopkins at the Biology Department of Wooster College to learn more details of the study results. No reply was received and we later found out that Hopkins was last known in California repairing guitar strings. □

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## There is no Past as Long as Ginkgos Live

*James D. Georgiles*

Ottawans do not have to go to the Gobi Desert and Dinosaur Park, Alberta, or even visit their own Canadian Museum of Nature to see relics of the Mesozoic Eras. They abound in Ottawa and living ones at that. Yet how many of the casual strollers and commuters hustling through Bank Street realise that the ancestors of those trees with the unusually shaped leaves, planted around the Metropolitan Life block were contemporary with *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Triceratops* and *Stegosaurus*?

The tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, commonly known as the maidenhair tree because its immature fuzzy forked fan-shaped leaves resemble the maidenhair fern, is extinct in the wild state except for solitary specimens on remote mountain slopes in China.

Once widely distributed throughout the world, the ginkgo, a gymnosperm, slowly lost ground to the angiosperms and the more advanced species of recent vegetation. One of the relics, a 3,000 year-old tree in Juxian, in Shandong Province, China is 85 feet tall and its trunk is so vast, that it takes eight adult persons with arms fully extended to encircle it. When in full leaf its canopy covers the area of an average city block.

The ginkgo has long been a favourite tree in the Orient and has for centuries been cultivated in the temple gardens of China and Japan. Its fine compact wood provides excellent material for sculpture, and its yellow fruit is used in

Chinese medicine and for its oil. In recent years the ginkgo has been introduced to North America, where its resistance to disease, insect depredation and automobile fumes has brought it to the interest of urban landscapers.

The hardiness and attractive appearance of those ginkgo trees planted on National Capital Commission property along the Rideau Canal — there is one near Clegg Street on Colonel By Drive — prompted the City of Ottawa to consider them for planting on Ottawa streets. A few years ago the City of Ottawa Physical Division, which is responsible for the planting and maintenance of city trees began planting the ginkgo trees along city streets as part of its regular tree planting program.

The ginkgos planted by the City of Ottawa around the Metropolitan Life block on Bank, Queen and Albert streets, were obtained as saplings from nurseries in the Toronto area. These trees have established themselves well, except along the Albert/Bank corner where there is a major bus station; here a few trees are almost continuously assailed by thick diesel fumes and particulates, belched from the exhausts of stationary buses picking up and discharging passengers and waiting at the traffic lights.

The flowers of the ginkgo are dioecious. The male flowers are borne in the axil of scale-leaves and comprise a stalked central axis bearing loosely arranged stamens, each producing one to four pollen sacs. The female flower is a long bare peduncle with a single ovule on each side of the apex.

The ginkgo trees that grace Ottawa streets are all male, for the female trees produce rancid smelling fruit and are seldom planted as ornamentals in the occident. Not so in China, where they often line city streets and the fruit, edible nuts, are relished and quickly gathered by passers-by almost before they fall to the sidewalk. If you want to sample these nuts there is a female tree in the Experimental Farm near the arboretum. But you had better be quick, for its location has long been known to Canadians from the orient and they leave few of the nuts for the squirrels, let alone adventurous occidental gastronomes.

The ginkgo is a late flushing tree and often does not show its leaves until June. This tardiness prompts many concerned citizens to call City Hall to inform them that the trees in such and such location are dead. These calls were so frequent that it was decided to discontinue further ginkgo planting on city streets. Those planted will remain, so the dinosaurs in the museum should feel quite at home for a good few years yet.¤

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# Violets of the Ottawa District

John M. Gillett

Curator Emeritus/Research Associate  
Canadian Museum of Nature

Violets are synonymous with spring. The pansies of our gardens are violets. All of our regional violets are small herbs. However, the plant family Violaceae also contains a number of larger plants. For example, the Green Violet, *Cubelium concolor* (Forst.) Raf., a large herb that grows about 1 meter tall, occurs in southern Ontario in the Niagara region.

About 500 species of violets exist, most of them in the north temperate zone but some are found in the Andes. (I actually found one when botanizing in Colombia). The first garden varieties date from about 1820 when an Englishman named Thompson began crossing species and backcrossing the hybrids. The Johnny-jump-up is *Viola tricolor* L., but many of our cultivated pansies arose from hybrids with *V. odorata* L. (which is grown in southern France for essential oils used in the manufacture of perfumes and toiletries), and/or *V. canina* L., the Sweet and Dog Violet respectively. Many of our hybrids do not show any trace of *V. odorata* or *V. canina* characteristics and are derived from other species. Pansies can be grown as annuals, biennials or perennials. They need cool shade; heat quickly destroys them. Mine overwinter quite nicely by covering them with straw before the snow comes.

Many studies of the genus *Viola* have been made but few authors agree on the disposition of the numerous species that have been described. I have tried to simplify things as much as possible, drawing on two major studies, that of Ballard (1994) and an earlier one by McKinney (1992). None of the commonly consulted floras agree on the number or often the identity of species but that does not interfere with our right to enjoy these beautiful plants and to try to recognize them.

Reproduction of violets is, as in many other plants, either by division of the plants (asexual method) to produce clones of genetically similar plants or by sexual means, *i.e.*, by pollination with transfer of genetic material between plants. There are two types of flowers, the showy flowers that we are all familiar with (called chasmogamous flowers) and inconspicuous flowers which never open (cleistomagous flowers) and which usually appear later in the season.

The cleistogamous flowers pollinate themselves (called selfing) so there is no exchange of genetic material. Seeds are formed in this manner.

Selfing also occurs in the showy flowers but cross-pollination with other plants may occur, then there is an exchange of genetic material. However, most reproduction is either vegetative or by selfing. Cross-pollination largely depends on habitat conditions during the week-long flowering period.

Habitat preference, flowering time, and geographical distribution are important in keeping species distinct. Hybrids (especially in the stemless group) are common because flowers are compatible. A particular feature of compatibility is the chromosome number which is the same in most species ( $2n = 54$ ). Even hybrids are often fertile. The relevance of this is to identification. It explains why it is difficult to write a key to these species and why, having a key, it is still sometimes difficult to identify them.

Leaves of violets are quite variable in shape; those of the stems (in the stemmed group), may be of a somewhat different shape from the basal ones. Leaves are alternate on the stems and presumably also on the rhizomes (underground stems) in the stemless species. Leaves have prominent stipules that may be toothed or fringed (see illustrations) and are useful to distinguish some species. (Stipules are the little leaf-like appendages at the base of each leaf.)

The showy flowers have five parts. The five sepals have eared bases (called auricles) and are persistent following flowering; the five petals are somewhat unequal, the two lateral ones often bearded (i.e., with a clump of hairs on the inner face). The lower petal is usually larger than the others and bears a spur or sac where nectar is produced. The stamens are fused together at the base around the pistil; the lowermost stamens bear appendages that extend into the spur of the lower petal. Nectary guides, which can be seen on the petals under ultra violet light, guide insects to the nectaries. To reach the nectar the visiting insect touches the stigma and also the appendages on the anthers. This causes pollen to drop on to the insect's back and is then carried to the stigma of another flower. The styles show considerable variation in shape, probably as an adaptation to pollination. Flowers are borne on stalks (peduncles) which have two small bracts near the middle.

Capsules contain small round seeds which vary in size and colour according to species. The seeds are very smooth and slippery and are later forcibly shot out of the capsule by the drying placenta which bears them.

Knowing this much, questions of all sorts then arise. If the showy flowers of the stemless species do not produce much seed, then how did they lose that ability? Is the cleistogamous flower an adaptation to ensure seed formation because of

climatic conditions existing in spring? If so, what about the apparent abandoning of cross-pollination as a major means of reproduction? You could have a lot of fun exploring these problems.

The fifteen violets of this region can be roughly classified into two groups: stemmed and stemless. The stemmed violets bear their flowers in the axils of stem leaves. In the stemless violets the flowers and the leaves arise from the tip of a thickened underground stem or rhizome; they also produce above ground stem branches called stolons which may appear during or after flowering. Often tufts of small leaves are borne at the stolon tips. Stemmed violets do not produce stolons. Let's look at the stemmed violets first because they are the easiest to recognize.

### STEMMED VIOLETS

We have one yellow flowered, one multi-coloured and three blue flowered. That's easy, isn't it? They are the Downy Yellow Violet (*V. pubescens*), the Canada Violet (*V. canadensis*), the American Dog Violet (*V. labradorica*), the Hooked Violet (*V. adunca*), and the Long-spurred Violet (*V. rostrata*).

Downy Yellow Violet, Violette pubescente, *V. pubescens* Ait., is from 10 to 40 cm tall and is soft hairy all over. There are 2-4 round leaves, 4 to 10 cm long, borne at the upper part of the plant; these are oval, short-pointed with flattened marginal teeth, and have a heart-shaped base. There may be a kidney-shaped basal leaf or none at all. Capsules are usually white-woolly but occasionally have only a few hairs. Yellow Violets are found chiefly in woods, occasionally in meadows (and in my garden where they come up all over the place; I guess they are happy there!). Flowering is from early May (or rarely the last week of April) through June. The Downy Yellow Violet is divisible into two varieties which may be distinguished as in the following key:

1. Plants moderately to thickly hairy, bearing 1-2 flowering stems and 0-2 basal leaves ..... *V. pubescens* var. *pubescens*
1. Plants hairless or almost so, bearing 3 or more flowering stems and 1-3 or more basal leaves ..... *V. pubescens* var. *scabriuscula* Schwein ex T. & G.

The variety *scabriuscula* is often considered as a separate species by some authors; it is then given the common name Smooth Yellow Violet. (The scientific name is then *V. eriocarpa* Schw.).

Canada Violet, Violette du Canada, *V. canadensis* L., is one our most distinctive species. The plant is 20-40 cm tall and has numerous stems arising from a short rhizome. Upper leaves are 5 to 10 cm long, with lance-shaped stipules at the base and are more heart-shaped than the lower ones. Flowers have petals that are purple-tinged on the outside and white inside with a yellow eyespot

and brownish purple veins near the base. This feature alone distinguishes it. Canada Violet is found in deciduous, usually maple woods having neutral or alkaline soils. Flowering is throughout May and June.

The remaining three stemmed violets are blue-flowered.

American Dog Violet, Violette décombante, *Viola labradorica* Schrank, (synonym *V. conspersa* Reichenb.) is common in fields and pastures. The plants may be only 2-4 cm tall in spring but become taller later in summer. Leaves are hairless. The basal leaves are round or kidney-shaped with rounded tips and fine rounded marginal teeth; the stem leaves are more heart-shaped and are 2-4 cm long with stipules that are spear-shaped and somewhat ragged or torn in the upper part. Flowers are up to 1 cm across, light blue with dark veins, the two lateral petals bearded (i.e. they bear a patch of hairs on the inside of the petal). The spur is short and blunt, perhaps 4-5 mm long. They flower in May and June.

[I am following Ballard (1994), who took up the earlier name *V. labradorica* Schrank for this violet.]

Another very closely related species is the Hooked Violet, Violette à éperon crochu, *V. adunca* Sm., which is not as common in our area as the American Dog Violet. The Hooked Violet has leaves that are densely short-hairy, ovate to nearly round with fine marginal teeth. The leaf base is straight across or very shallowly indented. The stipules are narrowly lance-shaped and vaguely spiny toothed. Petals may be light or dark blue. (In contrast, the American Dog Violet has leaves that are without hairs, more heart-shaped at the base; sepals are ciliate and petals are light blue.) Flowering of the Hooked Violet is in May and June. It is very common in Renfrew County and northwards and at Constance Bay and Gatineau Park.

Long-spurred Violet, Violette rostrée, *Viola rostrata* Pursh, is easily recognized by its long spur which may be 10-15 mm long (see illustration). They have quite long lance-shaped stipules which may be fringed above the middle. The leaves are very similar to those of the American Dog Violet but they have sharper tips. Flowers are light violet with darker veins forming a distinct eye. You may be able to find this species in woods near Bell's Corners, near Fallowfield and at Carleton Place. I have collected it near Westport; but it is common throughout all southern Ontario. Flowering is throughout May and possibly into early June.

Here is a key to the stemmed violets:

1. Petals yellow or white and purple tinged; stipules entire ..... 2
1. Petals blue or purple; stipules toothed like a comb ..... 3

2. Petals yellow; stipules green ..... **Downy Yellow Violet, *V. pubescens***
2. Petals white inside, usually purplish outside; stipules whitened ..... **Canada Violet, *V. canadensis***
3. Lateral petals without hairs; spur 10 to 15 mm long; style tip straight ..... **Long-spurred Violet, *V. rostrata***
3. Lateral petals bearing hairs; spur under 8 mm long; style tip bent ..... 4
4. Leaves hairless with rounded marginal teeth. Leaf blades almost round, often pointed at the tips, the lower ones at least, heart-shaped at the base; stipules broadly spear-shaped, spiny toothed ... **American Dog Violet, *V. labradorica***
4. Leaves short-hairy, distinctly oval with blunt tips, the base vaguely heart-shaped, or merely straight across at the base; stipules linear, vaguely spiny toothed; northern species ..... **Hooked Violet, *V. adunca***

### STEMLESS VIOLETS

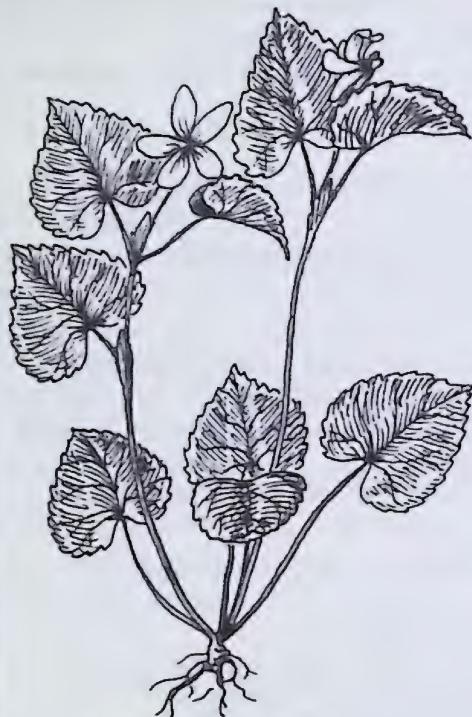
The stemless violets are considered to be taxonomically quite difficult, but don't panic. They can be divided into blue ones and white ones.

**WHITE STEMLESS:** We have five, they are: the Sweet White Violet (*V. blanda*), the Large-leaved White Violet (*V. incognita*), the Lance-leaved Violet (*V. lanceolata*), the Kidney-leaved Violet (*V. renifolia*), and the Northern White Violet (*V. macloskeyi* ssp. *pallens*).

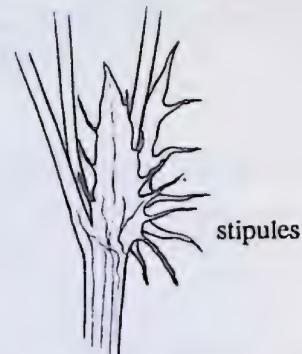
Let's look at each one.

**Sweet White Violet, Violette agréable, *Viola blanda* Willd.**, has stolons present even on young plants which will distinguish it from the Kidney-leaved Violet (*V. renifolia*). The leaves always have some hairs which will separate it from the Northern White Violet (*V. macloskeyi*) which has glabrous leaves. The leaf and flower stalks are usually red-tinged. Leaves are broadly heart-shaped with a basal space that is so narrow that the lobes are almost overlapping. Petals are white, the 3 lower petals have brownish veins near the base. There is no beard of hairs on the inside of the lateral petals (unlike the Large-leaved White Violet). The Sweet White Violet is a species of wet cedar woods, swamps, wet deciduous woods, throughout the region. Flowering is throughout May and June.

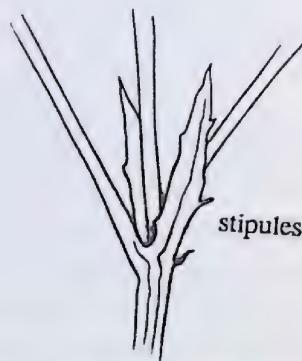
**Large-leaved White Violet, Violette méconnue, *Viola incognita* Brainerd,** is rather sparse in this area. This violet produces thread-like stolons in summer. Leaves are hairless above but may have hairs along the petiole when they are



Downy Yellow Violet  
*Viola pubescens* var. *scabriuscula*



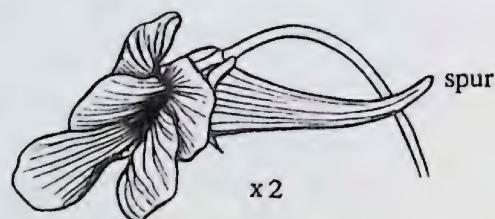
American Dog Violet  
*V. labradorica*  
(blue)



Hooked Violet  
*V. adunca*



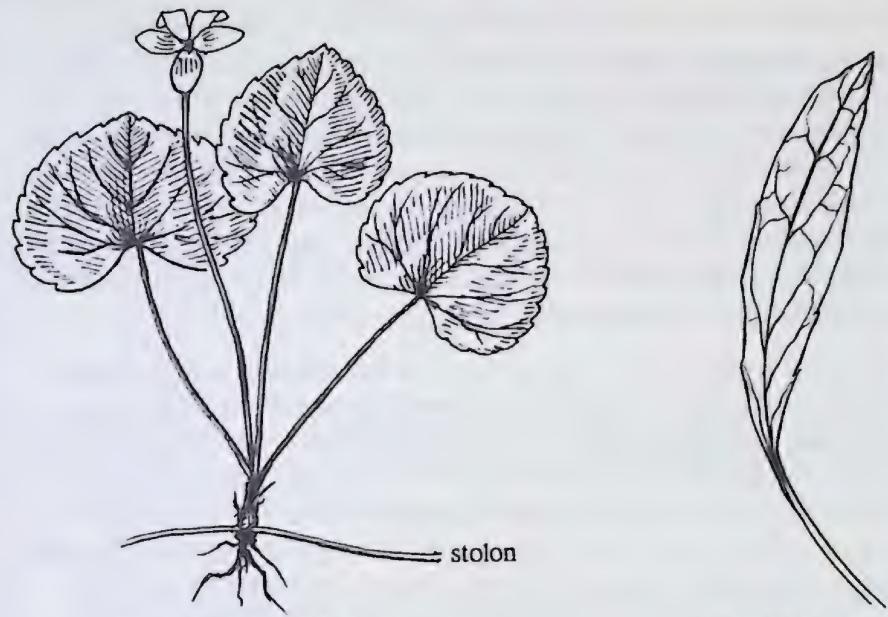
Hooked Violet  
*V. adunca*  
(blue)



Long-spurred Violet  
*V. rostrata*  
(blue)

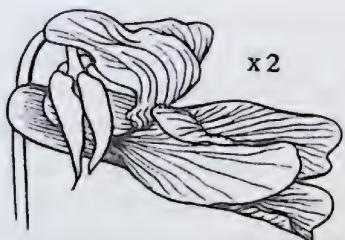
H.B.

### Stemmed Violets



Large-leaved White Violet  
*V. incognita*

Lance-leaved violet  
*V. lanceolata (white)*



x 2



x 2

Marsh Blue Violet  
*V. cucullata*



knob-shaped hairs



thread-like hairs



## Stemless Violets

young. The leaves are 2 to 4 cm wide at flowering and may enlarge to about 8 cm later in the season. Lateral petals are bearded. The cleistogamous or hidden flowers are borne on prostrate stalks and produce purplish capsules containing brown seeds. The Large-leaved White Violet is known from the Eardley Escarpment; Albert Dugal has it from his beloved Gloucester woods and it is known from near Ashton. That's about it. It apparently flowers in late May and fruiting specimens with cleistogamous flower stalks have been seen in July. The author of this species, Ezra Brainerd, was a great violet student who wrote several illustrated books and many papers on the topic. He also appropriately named his daughter, Viola!

Lance-leaved Violet, Violette lancéolée, *Viola lanceolata* L. is immediately recognizable by its lance-shaped leaves (see illustration) and by the stolons which appear after flowering and become longer later in the season. Mature leaf blades are 2.5 to 12 cm long and up to 2.5 cm wide. The flowers are white with purple veins and extend as high as the leaves or beyond. The cleistogamous flowers are borne on long stalks or on short stalks arising from the stolon axils. Our records are from the shores of the Ottawa River from Aylmer, the mouth of the Gatineau River, Quyon, Calumet, Pontiac Bay, Bristol, Rapides-des-Chats, and Buckingham's Bay. Early in the season when the river is in flood, it may be impossible to find this species. Flowering is from early June until July; fruiting up to October.

Kidney-leaved Violet, Violette réniforme, *Viola renifolia* A. Gray, is rather sparse in our region. As I pointed out earlier the lack of stolons distinguishes this species from the Sweet White Violet (*V. blanda*). The leaves are widely spreading, kidney-shaped to round with heart-shaped bases. Flowers are white with purple stripes, the lateral petals without beards. Both the sepals and sepal ears (auricles) have ciliate hairs. This is a northern species and occurs sporadically in the region (Constance Bay, Britannia (at one time)). It grows in pine woods and white cedar woods. Flowering is in May and June.

Northern White Violet, Violette pâle, *Viola macloskeyi* F.E.Lloyd ssp. *pallens* (Banks ex DC.) M.S.Baker, can be confused with the Sweet White Violet (*V. blanda*) but differs from it by having completely hairless leaves and margins with rounded teeth or no teeth. Lateral petals have a small tuft of hairs on the inside. The cleistogamous capsules are green and have black seeds and are borne on erect or arching stalks. This is a common violet found in swampy woods, coniferous woods and water margins. It flowers throughout May into early June.

Here is a key to the above stemless white violets:

1. Stolons (a stem branch creeping on the surface of the ground) mostly lacking; leaves kidney-shaped (reniform) ..... Kidney-shaped Violet, *V. renifolia*
1. Stolons present; leaves not kidney-shaped ..... 2
2. Leaves twice as long as wide, not heart-shaped at the base (see illustration) ..... Lance-leaved Violet, *V. lanceolata*
2. Leaves as wide as or wider than long, heart-shaped at the base ..... 3
3. Lateral petals without a beard (no hairy area on the inside of the lateral petals) ..... Sweet White Violet, *V. blanda*
3. Lateral petals bearded ..... 4
4. Petioles and lower leaf-surfaces densely hairy; cleistogamous (hidden) flowers on prostrate stalks ..... Large-leaved White Violet, *V. incognita*
4. Petioles and lower leaf-surfaces hairless or nearly so; cleistogamous flowers on erect stalks ..... Northern White Violet, *V. macloskeyi* ssp. *pallens*

**STEMLESS BLUE VIOLETS:** We used to have a lot of difficulty with this group of species, but recently they were revised by Landon E. McKinney (1992) who reduced the number of species. The Woolly Blue (*V. sororia*) now encompasses many "species" which were difficult to key out using such characteristics as whether or not the hairs on the petals were club-shaped or straight, and so on. Now, ideally, all you have to do is accept McKinney's treatment and call all these "microspecies" *V. sororia*. However, life isn't that simple. More recently, Ballard (1994), in writing up the violets of Michigan considered one of the segregates of *sororia*, *V. nephrophylla* Greene, as a separate species more closely allied to *V. cucullata* than to *V. sororia*. I am including *V. nephrophylla* Greene as a separate species here.

We have five stemless blue violets in our region, the Marsh Blue Violet (*V. cucullata*), the Northern Bog Violet (*V. nephrophylla*), the Northern Downy Violet (*V. sagittata*), the Great Spurred Violet (*V. selkirkii*), and the Woolly Blue Violet (*V. sororia*). Let's look at them one by one.

Marsh Blue Violet, Violette cucullée, *Viola cucullata* Ait. This is the floral emblem of New Brunswick. Its occurrence in predominantly wet habitats – swamps, wet meadows, bogs and wet woods – almost distinguishes it. Its rhizome may be branched causing the plant to form colonies. Leaves are oval to kidney-shaped, with acute tips. The lateral petals are bearded with club-shaped hairs; the spurred petal is beardless and shorter than the laterals. The sepals are prominently eared (auricles) at the base. Both showy and hidden flowers are borne on erect or nearly erect stalks or peduncles. Flowering and fruiting is from April to July. Marsh Blue Violet occurs in the Maritimes, western Quebec and throughout southern Ontario as far north as the Thunder Bay region. It ranges as far south as northern Georgia and west to Iowa.

Northern Bog Violet, Violette néphrophylle, *Viola nephrophylla* Greene. Superficially this species is similar to the Marsh Blue Violet (*V. cucullata*) from which it differs in having the spurred petal bearded with threadlike hairs, and its sepals have very short auricles. It is often confused with the Woolly Blue (*V. sororia*) from which it differs by its green cleistogamous capsules which are borne on erect stalks (peduncles) and by its olive-black seeds. The foliage is hairless. The floral stalks are longer than the leaf stalks, so the flowers overtop the leaves. The habitat is also very critical. The Northern Bog Violet occurs in open alkaline habitats. It is common on the "Burnt Lands" near Almonte. This species also flowers in May.

Northern Downy Violet, *Viola sagittata* Ait. var. *ovata* (Nutt.) Torr. & Gray. (I don't know the French common name). You should not have any difficulty with this violet because it only occurs on the sandhills of Constance Bay in our region. In other parts of its range it occurs in dry habitats such as fields and slopes. Northern Downy Violet occurs scattered throughout southern Ontario, in southwestern Quebec and in southern Nova Scotia. In the U.S. it is found as far south as the Carolinas and west to Iowa. McKinney divided the species into two varieties, of which we only have var. *ovata*. This plant has oval leaves that are flat across the base and are densely short hairy. Petals are dark blue-violet; the lateral petals are bearded. Sepals are oval to lance-shaped with sharp tips. Its seeds are beige to bronze coloured. Flowering is April and May. (This species used to be called *V. fimbriatula* Sm. but an earlier name is now being used.)

Selkirk's Violet, Violette de Selkirk, *V. selkirkii* Pursh is rather sparse in this region. It was collected near Chelsea in 1906 and I collected it three times in Gatineau Park in 1967 and 1968. On the Ontario side of the river we have old collections from Ottawa, Carleton Place, Moose Creek, Carp, and recently Albert Dugal collected it from South Gloucester.

Selkirk's Violet has slender underground stems but no stolons. Leaves are hairless below and slightly hairy above. The leaf blades are 1.5-4.5 cm broad, broadly oval with a heart-shaped base; the basal lobes often obscure the gap between them. Flowers are pale violet, about 2 cm in diameter. The petals are beardless and the spur is 5-7 mm long, as long as the blade of the spurred petal. Cleistogamous flowers are borne on ascending stalks. The capsule is almost round and purple-dotted. This is a plant of cool, rich woods and ravines, often in calcareous regions. It flowers from mid-April (but not in 1996!) throughout May but is visible and recognizable throughout the summer. (This species is also known as the Great Spurred Violet, not to be confused with the Long-spurred Violet, *Viola rostrata*).

Woolly Blue Violet, Violette parente, *V. sororia* Willd. has oval leaves having a heart-shaped base and marginal teeth which are either round or sharp-toothed. The blue flowers are overtopped by the leaves. The spurred petal has no hairs within, or just a few. Sepals are blunt with weakly developed basal ears. Capsules are purple-flecked and are borne on prostrate stalks.

*Viola sororia* occurs in open woods and waste ground throughout southern and eastern Ontario, southern Quebec and New Brunswick, and is very common. Flowering is through April, May and well into June, occasionally again in September, dependent upon the weather.

These five stemless blue species can be separated with the following key  
(adapted and simplified from Ballard)

1. Leaves strongly heart-shaped with a narrow sinus, the basal lobes commonly overlapping; upper surface of leaf blades with erect white hairs; stipules less than 6 mm long, united to the leaf stalks about half their length; petals beardless; spur 5-7 mm long ..... Selkirk's Violet, *V. selkirkii*
1. Leaves tapering or heart-shaped at the base, the basal lobes not overlapping; stipules over 7 mm long, never united to the leaf stalks ..... 2
2. Most or all leaf blades distinctly longer than broad, sparsely to densely short hairy; sepals usually long-tapering to a sharply acute apex; lateral petals bearded; Constance Bay only ..... Northern Downy Violet, *V. sagittata*
2. Most or all leaf blades nearly as broad as long, or broader ..... 3

- 3. Lateral petals bearded within by short, knob-shaped hairs; spurred petal hairless within; flowers commonly overtopping leaves; sepals long-tapering, sharply acute at apex, with well-developed, eared bases ..... **Marsh Blue Violet, *V. cucullata***
- 3. Lateral (and often spurred) petals bearded within by long, thread-like hairs; sepals oblong, lance-shaped to oval, blunt to rounded at the tip, with inconspicuous eared bases ..... 4
  
- 4. Flowers commonly overtopping leaves (especially in early flowering); foliage essentially hairless; largest leaf blades mostly blunt to rounded at the apex, straight across to nearly heart-shaped at the base, with flattened teeth along the margins; spurred petal densely bearded; plants of wet, alkaline, open habitats ..... **Northern Bog Violet, *V. nephrophylla***
- 4. Leaves commonly overtopping flowers; foliage commonly moderately to densely long hairy; largest leaf blades acute to abruptly pointed at the tip, strongly heart-shaped at the base, sharply toothed along the margins; spurred petal scantily bearded; plants of moist to dry forest habitats ..... **Woolly Blue Violet, *V. sororia***

A parting word. Remember that hybrids between native species do occur. Be alert to possible hybrids between those species that are found in the same habitat.

I hope you have fun trying to identify violets as I do. I recall a man who rarely steps out of his office and who accompanied me on a walk through the woods. On finding a violet, he asked, "What's this purple thing?" Incredible!

#### References:

- Ballard, Harvey E., Jr. 1994. Violets of Michigan. *Michigan Botanist* 33 (4): 131-199.
- Gillet, John M. & David J. White. 1978. *Checklist of vascular plants of the Ottawa-Hull Region, Canada*; Liste des plantes vasculaires de la région d'Ottawa-Hull, Canada. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa. 155 p + map.
- McKinney, L.E. Unpublished, undated note: A brief synopsis of a forthcoming revision of the acaulescent blue violets of North America. 8 p.
- McKinney, L. E. 1992. *A taxonomic revision of the acaulescent blue violets (Viola) of North America*. Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601, U.S.A. 60 p.

Illustrations are mostly by Marcel Jomphe but the two habit sketches are by Sally Gadd, done some years ago. ☐

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# Imaginary Birds of the Ottawa Valley

## PART II: SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER

*written and illustrated by C. Lewis  
(with contributions by B. McBride & J. McGugan)*

Spring and Summer present their own special challenges to birders in the Ottawa area:

- mud

- black flies
- birds

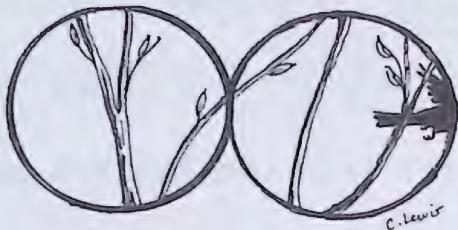
Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you dress and equip yourselves appropriately. A good pair of hip-waders and a can of 'Raid' have been known to come in handy. Don't forget to bring along this second installment of "Imaginary Birds of the Ottawa Valley."

### BACKLIT TWITS

- tiny arboreal species, abundant everywhere during periods of strong sunlight (lack of which can also make them rare in some years)
- virtually indistinguishable from warblers; however, since there is **only one** species of Backlit Twit, positive identification can always be made with total confidence



## GONE BIRDS



- closely related to Backlit Twits

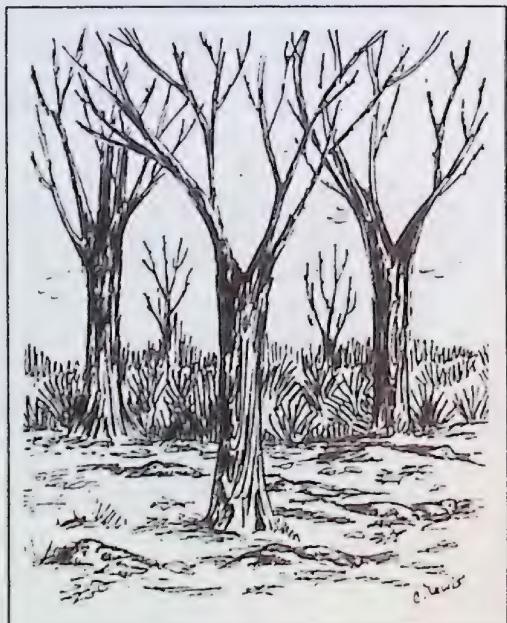
\* Identification hint: B.L.T.'s tend to show more culmen and supercilium; if only remiges and retrices are seen, bird may safely be called a Gone Bird.

## COMMON DIRT BIRDS

- ground-dwelling species, usually sedentary
- cryptic plumage makes identification difficult, although recently two subspecies have been confirmed: Rock Birds and Lump Birds
- birders who discover new subspecies are encouraged to submit reports and specimens

to:

Museum of Unidentified Dirt  
(M.U.D.)  
P.O. Box 2000  
(Please enclose specimens in tightly-sealed plastic bags, to prevent leakage.)



## SPRING PEEPS

- (not illustrated, never seen, identified by voice only)
- often mistaken for frogs, but are really tiny shorebirds hidden in marshes and swamps until Fall, when they secretly migrate to local sewage lagoons.

## EURASIAN WEAVER FINCHES

(See: PART III: SUMMER)

## GREATER & LESSER SPOTS

GREATER SPOT

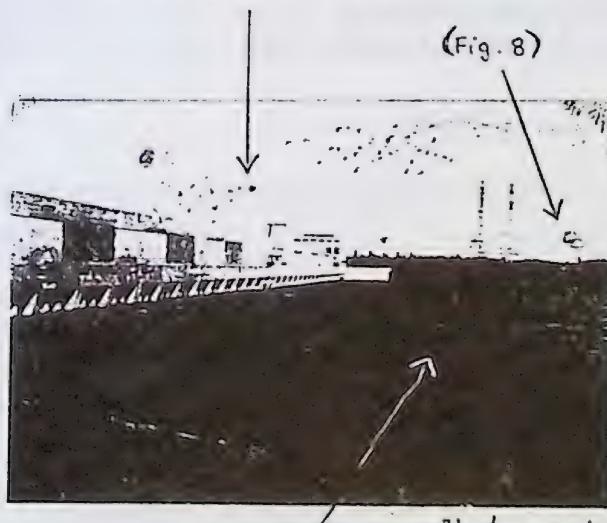


Photo reprinted  
& enhanced, without  
permission, from  
T-L, Vol. 29, No 4.

- Spots of both species are often seen on large bodies of open sky or water, especially when lenses of optical equipment have not been recently cleaned.
- "All-seasons" species; we have included them in the Spring & Early Summer installment mainly for the purpose of lengthening this section of the field guide (*Figure 8*).

### PART III: SUMMER

We include the summer installment in spite of its being very brief, due to the fact that:

There are no birds in summer except for:

- Rock Doves
- European Starlings
- House Sparrows

Therefore, it is both acceptable and advisable to:

- 1) glorify the above species  
(e.g.) ● House Sparrow = Eurasian Weaver Finch
- 2) make up your own species  
(e.g.) ● Stationary Cardinal below



See you in the Fall when we present:

**PART IV: SHOREBIRD HELL**  
(or, The Creatures from the Munster Lagoon)¤

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## Special Interest in Field-Sketching

*P.J. "Mickey" Narraway*

Our Club fostered Special Interest Groups during the 1950's and 60's and again in 1981 and 1982. These served to bring together members with similar interests, for discussions, workshops, and outings. One of these groups was formed for drawing and sketching in the field in the company and safety of others.

We would like to recreate such a group. In the early spring, the native spring wildflowers, mosses and mushrooms pose patiently for many pleasant sketching hours. If you are interested in joining an outdoor art group, please register through the Club phone (722-3050). Please leave your name, phone number, and mention the days and time of day that you would prefer going out, and your probability of transportation. If several members are interested, you will be notified. ☐

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## Don't Throw Out Those Dead Animals

*Isabelle Nicol*

It's spring cleaning time again! Were you an avid collector of wasps' or birds' nests? Perhaps you collected insects, snakes' skins, owl pellets, or deer antlers? Have these items become eyesores, dust collectors? Do your once precious collections sit in the dark somewhere, forgotten?

Well, guess what. There are many children in this city who would just love looking at any wildlife item, shabby or new. Your once-beloved animal skin, now a nuisance, can once more be of great value to young people who would love to see it. It can become part of a wildlife display for many school children who never have the chance or opportunity to get out and see the wild critters that roam our woods and leave parts of their homes or other traces behind.

If you have anything that once hopped, ran, flew or swam, maybe I could use it. I am also interested in obtaining anything that once lived in the Arctic regions. Other than that, only local critters please. Just give me a call at 820-1406, and I would be pleased to pick up any donations. ☐

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# Taverner Cup Birding Competition

*Jeff Harrison*

Chair, Taverner Cup Co-ordinating Committee

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden will hold the second birding event, called the Taverner Cup, on Saturday May 24, 1997. An awards brunch will be held on Sunday May 25th. The competition has been modelled after New Jersey's World Series of Birding. The geographic area for the Taverner is eastern Ontario, including Algonquin and Presqu'ile Parks, and a portion of west Quebec. The extensive boundary offers birders the potential to go all-out for the magical "200 species."

The objectives of the Taverner Cup include: to increase the public's awareness of the biodiversity of eastern Ontario, to sharpen birder's skills through competition, and to raise money for worthwhile environmental projects. This is not JUST a competition for elite bird-watchers. Everyone is welcome and we intend to make it a fun event! The main local beneficiary is intended to be the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

This year we have a planning committee of seven from the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, the Birds Committee and the Outaouais Bird Club. We will have two entry categories: Competitive and Recreation. Competitive teams require a sponsor who will pay a \$300.00 sponsor fee and the team's entry fee of \$25.00 per participant. Recreational team members each pay the \$25.00 participant's fee. The Taverner Cup will be awarded to the competitive team with the most species. The Fothergill Trophy will go to the recreational team winners. The trophies have been purchased with money provided by the OFNC.

Initial reaction has been good. At this early stage (late January) we think we have four teams in the competitive category and growing interest. Nature clubs, foundations, institutions and government agencies can sponsor a team and use the event for project fund-raising; corporations can use this for promotion. Baillie participants are also being encouraged to enter this competition.

Birders can get a complete information package by contacting Tony Beck at (613) 835-4455. Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor, or finding a sponsor, should contact Jeff Harrison at:

Tel. (613)730-5968; Fax (613) 730-2079 or E-mail [dha@magi.com](mailto:dha@magi.com)

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# The Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards for Young Ornithologists

*Long Point Bird Observatory*

The Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards foster the development of ornithological interests in Canadian teenagers. Recipients of the awards attend a week-long workshop/natural history camp at Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), located on the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario.

The Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop is a major component of the Observatory's educational program. Since its inception in the mid 1970s, the Workshop has been the jumping-off point for many of today's most talented field biologists. Thanks to the keen foresight and generosity of humanitarian and naturalist Doug Tarry, the Workshop is offered free to selected applicants. This year, the Workshop is being held from Friday 1 August to Friday 8 August 1997.

The Workshop focuses on "hands-on" learning and training in field ornithology, providing a unique opportunity for like-minded teenagers to markedly enhance their knowledge and skills in the scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment of birds. Participants learn how to identify, age and sex birds, and to study their populations and behaviours. Careful and skilled instructors teach the secrets of bird handling and banding techniques, how to prepare specimens for scientific study, and an array of bird censusing techniques. Regular afternoon field trips are taken to places of biological interest within the internationally designated Long Point Biosphere Reserve. Evenings too are busy with slide presentations and nocturnal field work.

Space is limited to 6 participants, ranging in age from 13-18 years old. The Award covers all direct costs of the workshop (accommodation, meals, travel while at Long Point, and professional instruction), but recipients are responsible for their transportation to Long Point. Prospective participants are invited to request an application form from: Rosie Kirton, Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (fax 519-586-3532).

Applications are due 1 May 1997 □

# Summer and Fall Bird Sightings

June 1st to November 30th, 1996

*Chris Traynor  
with illustrations by Ken Allison*



*Red Phalarope*

## SUMMER

The summer of 96 was rather quiet on the birding scene with only a few unusual sightings. However, there were still some interesting birds around worth noting, perhaps less exciting than the odd rarity that sends birders scrambling.

The little village of Alfred, east of Ottawa, hosted an interesting variety of birds in June. At the sewage lagoons, the Glossy Ibis first seen in May (26th) lingered at least till the 14th. The Alfred Bog paid off for those who visited there. A Sandhill Crane was reported in early June as well as a family of Gray Jays. On the 23rd both Lincoln's and Clay-colored Sparrows were found as well as the yellow subspecies of Palm Warbler. The Yellow Palm Warbler has bred in the district in the Mer Bleue but not since the early part of the century. A nest would be an exciting discovery and is quite possible given the habitat.

In Casselman, yet another little town east of Ottawa, the best variety of shorebirds last summer could be found at the sewage lagoons. There were numerous

reports from a wide variety of birders. I suspect that Mays Curlew Sandpiper drew some attention to this local. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were present, the Lesser in higher numbers. Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper, Sandpiper, Semi-palmated and Least Sandpiper were some of the more common shorebirds seen here. Also at Casselman were White-rumped and Stilt Sandpiper (in small numbers), Black-bellied Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher and Common Snipe. Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope rounded out the field of birds present at various times this summer. It should be noted that there were no real large numbers downed by storms—just a steady trickle.

Embrum was also productive with many of the same birds as at Casselman. Embrum also had Hudsonian Godwit (June 1) as well as Ruddy Turnstone and Pectoral Sandpiper (Aug. 18).

The Munster lagoons southwest of Ottawa, while not as heavily birded, produced the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Aug. 25) as well as the Baird's Sandpiper. The Baird's was widely reported in the summer and fall of 1995 but in 1996 reports were few.

Other interesting spots last summer included Britannia where a Franklin's Gull appeared off the point (June 3). Two days later a Laughing Gull was observed. This gull was an adult in breeding plumage. Like all hooded gulls, the Laughing Gull is striking in its breeding finery.

Lastly, wide ranging reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker added a bright note to the summer. Generally in decline in our area they were reported from the northwest at the regular Breckenridge site, north at Larrimac-Chelsea, west in the Dunrobin area, southwest near Richmond and south by the Ottawa Airport.

## THE FALL SEASON

The fall season proved much more exciting than summer. Of course, with migration this is not unexpected. Young birds tend to wander as do post breeding adults.

**GANNETS:** On November 10th, an immature Northern Gannet was observed off of Bate Island flying upriver. Though it was not seen again it is possible it is the same bird that ended up in Lanark, but did not survive. All gannet records in the Ottawa District are of immature birds which do occasionally wander inland.

**HERONS:** Sandhill Cranes were reported from the Milton Road on several occasions, with a high count of ten (Nov. 3). The increasingly common Great



*Northern Gannet*

Egret was at Shirley's Bay (Oct.28). How long will it be till they breed here? A smaller relative, the Cattle Egret, was seen on Kettles Road near Munster (Nov.11-12). Cattle Egrets, like other herons, are known to be great wanderers north of their territories in the post breeding season.

**WATERFOWL:** Good numbers of Brant were seen along the Ottawa River with a high of 500 (Nov.3). Snow Geese and a smattering of Brant were amongst the Canada Geese throughout the region although no large flocks were reported. More unusual was a Greater White-fronted Goose present at Ottawa Beach for several days in November.

While fall duck numbers were uninspiring the diminutive **Ruddy Duck** put in several appearances. They were present at Shirley's Bay and the Burnside pit with a high of 11 at Shirley's Bay (Oct.28). Other puddle ducks went mostly unreported but this is not due to their absence.

Scoters were the only diving ducks seen in any large numbers. The Surf, White-winged and Black Scoter were all seen in the vicinity of Britannia and Lake Deschênes. Diving duck numbers can be misleading though as many spend all of their time far out on the river where they easily disappear from sight.

**SHOREBIRDS:** For the second year in a row there was some productive shorebird watching along the Ottawa River. Ottawa Beach had a good variety including both Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plover. Pectoral and Baird's Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin and Ruddy Turnstones could all be found although there were no large numbers of shorebirds.



*Purple Sandpiper*

From the 14-16th of September at least one Red Phalarope was present at Ottawa Beach. This is the rarest of the three phalaropes in the Ottawa District. The Winchester lagoons also had Red Phalaropes at the same time (15-16th). Two more were spinning around the Casselman lagoons on the 15th. These records represent the best sightings of this species since 1992. Hudsonian Godwits appeared at Shirley's Bay (Oct. 1) and at the Burnside pit (Oct. 18). By November the Purple Sandpipers started to appear. This is one of our latest shorebirds and November is the best time to seek them out. The Britannia pier has always been a good spot and this year was no exception. Purples tend to appear amongst the rocks and were here on November 3, 17 and 18. Shirley's Bay had a Purple on the 16th and 17th.

**JAEGERS and GULLS:** Parasitic Jaegers provided some excitement along the river this fall. Jaegers are not common here but the parasitic is the one most likely to be seen. Quite often they are harassing gulls to give up their catch. One was at Ottawa Beach (Sept.14) and two more were observed from Shirley's Bay (Nov.10).

Our second Laughing Gull record this year was a first-winter bird at the Central Experimental Farm (Sept.28). The Lesser Black-backed Gull, now pretty much regular, was reported from the Ottawa River and the Trail Road Dump and adjacent pits. Greater Black-backed, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were all present at these locations with numbers increasing from mid-October on. Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were also present with the Ring-bills moving

out as the large gulls moved in. There were two reports of the Thayer's Gull both from the dump.

**EAGLES:** There were several reports of Bald Eagles at both Shirley's Bay and the Burnside pit. Often these eagles associate with large waterfowl flocks. While they do, on occasion, take a duck their usual tactic is to swoop at one in the hope the duck will disgorge a nice fish. I imagine, that for a merganser, trading a fish for one's life is not a bad option.

**OWLS:** Large numbers of Boreal Owls were reported at banding stations from Thunder Bay to Quebec. This follows the good numbers of Boreals reported last year in parts of Ontario. While no major movement materialized in Ottawa a road-killed Boreal was found on October 11th along the new Highway 416 near Fallowfield. It appeared to have been dead for several days. This is very early for Ottawa. A small owl along the Sarsparilla Trail (Oct. 27) was, from the description, almost certainly a Boreal Owl. Further south, at Amherst Island, as many as three Boreals were found on one day and possibly eight in all passed through.

Snowy Owls started showing up in small numbers in November. This year, as usual, the first birds were spotted along the river near Dick Bell Park and along the dyke at Shirleys Bay. The Wall Road and western Experimental Farm also had Snowies but numbers reported were low. Short-eared Owls were scarce with Wall Road again being the only reliable spot.

Finally, on the 16th and 17th of November two Northern Hawk Owls were seen along the Fourth Line Road in Kanata. While one moved on the other remained to the end of November and will likely overwinter.

Recent Bird Sightings reflect reports to the Club's Bird Status Line as well as the authors records and personal communications. Special thanks to Ken Allison for his drawings of the Red Phalarope, Northern Gannet and Purple Sandpiper.□

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#### CORRECTION:

In the "Checklist of the Mammals of the Ottawa District" which appeared in the previous issue of *T&L*, we inadvertently placed a box before the listing of *Rangifer tarandus*, caribou, which then incorrectly designated this mammal as likely to occur naturally in the wild in our District (*T&L* 31(1):19). We apologize to the author and to readers for this mistake.□

# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,  
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**ALL OUTINGS:** Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.

Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

Sunday

6 April

6:30 a.m.

to

6:30 p.m.



**BUS EXCURSION: SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE**

Leaders: Bob Bracken and Colin Gaskell

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$30.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY;  
see Coming Events intro. for details).

The Club's traditional spring excursion to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the

diverse assortment of water fowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration. Transportation will consist of a comfortable, washroom-equipped motor coach supplied by Carleton Bus Lines.

Tuesday 8 April 8:00 p.m.	<b>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING</b> <b>WILDFLOWERS OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY</b> Speaker: Sheila Thomson Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. Sheila Thomson, an Honorary Member of our Club, has held a lifelong fascination with the abundant array of wildflowers that may be found throughout the Ottawa Valley during different seasons of the year. She will take us down a trail of visual splendour embellished by personal recollections and accounts of some of the folklore associated with many of our local plants. As always, Sheila's talk will be enhanced by the excellent photography of her husband Harry.
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Saturday 19 April 9:00 a.m.	<b>TREES IN SPRING</b> Leader: Ellaine Dickson Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road. The emphasis of this outing will be on the identification of trees before they are in leaf (although certain species may already be in bloom). Ellaine will choose an appropriate study somewhere in the west end of Ottawa to conduct this outdoor workshop. Bring a lunch for this half-day trip.
Saturday 19 April 11:00 a.m.	<b>WILD WINGS: THE HIDDEN WORLD OF BIRDS</b> Speaker: Mike Runtz Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre, south of the traffic circle on Prince of Wales Drive. Watch for the large sign with the heron logo. Join us for a fascinating photographic exploration of the hidden world of birds. If you missed Mike's presentation to the Club in March, here is your chance to catch up. Mike has generously promised to donate a portion of his book sales to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Help support a worthy project and hear a great speaker at the same time!

**Sunday**  
**20 April**  
6:30 a.m.  
to  
6:30 p.m.



**BUS EXCURSION:**  
**HAWKS ALOFT AT DERBY HILL, N.Y.**  
**Leaders:** Bob Bracken and Bernie Ladouceur  
**Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
**Cost:** \$30.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY; see Coming Events intro. for details).  
When weather conditions are favourable, the spectacle of thousands of hawks migrating over Derby Hill, New York, is an amazing phenomenon well worth the long bus ride. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. Optical equipment in new condition should be registered with Canada Customs in advance of the trip. The excursion will be cancelled on the day before if the weather forecast for the eastern end of Lake Ontario is particularly unfavourable. You will be notified of any change of plan. Transportation will consist of a comfortable, washroom-equipped motor coach supplied by Carleton Bus Lines.

**Friday**  
**25 April**  
7:30 p.m.

**OFNC SOIRÉE WINE AND CHEESE PARTY AND ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**  
**Meet:** Unitarian Church Hall, 30 Cleary Street.  
See the centrefold in the January - March 1997 issue of *T & L* for further details.

**Saturday**  
and  
**Sunday**  
26 & 27  
April

**EXCURSION: SPRUCE GROUSE IN ALGONQUIN PARK**  
**Leader:** Stewart MacDonald  
Full details of this excursion were provided in the January - March 1997 issue of *T & L*. As of this printing, the trip is fully subscribed.

#### BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS

The following walks of 3 or 4 hours duration are offered to novice birders.

Saturday	Time	Place	Leader
May 3	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Ken Allison
May 17	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Don Davidson
May 24	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Doug Craig
May 31	7:30 a.m.	Britannia*	Jim Harris

\*Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant.

## MAY EVENING STROLLS

These four informal walks are offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome on these outings. Bring waterproof footwear and insect repellent.

Thursday 8 May 6:30 p.m.	<b>BRITANNIA WOODS CONSERVATION AREA</b> Leader: Dave Moore Meet: Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant.
Thursday 15 May 6:30 p.m.	<b>STONY SWAMP</b> Leader: Frank Pope Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road
Thursday 22 May 6:30 p.m.	<b>TRILLIUM WOODS</b> Leader: Catherine O'Keefe Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Tuesday 27 May 6:30 p.m.	<b>NEW YORK CENTRAL RIGHT-OF-WAY</b> Leaders: Ron and Trudy Bedford Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.

Saturday  
10 May  
8:00 a.m.

**SPRING WILDFLOWERS**  
Leader: Philip Martin  
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
Come out and enjoy a spring morning looking for wildflowers. Bring a snack and insect repellent.

Saturday  
10 May  
10:00 a.m.

**INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**  
Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre.  
Celebrate this important day by visiting the Fletcher Wildlife Garden where you can participate in birding walks, browse special displays and pick up handouts on migratory birds.  
Watch for more details in the local media.

**Tuesday**  
**13 May**  
**8:00 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**INSECTS AROUND YOU**  
**Speaker: Henri Goulet**  
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.  
Henri Goulet is a research scientist with 20 years experience in Agriculture Canada. He will give us a short outline of the different groups of insects and take us through a tour of his backyard. Most of us are unaware that the average garden can accommodate upwards of 3,000 insect species! Of these only a small portion have earned a bad reputation, and the majority perform invaluable services in pollination, control of pests and the formation of soil. Even plant-eaters can be useful, if not always popular – imagine a world overgrown with cabbages!

**Sunday**  
**18 May**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**SPRING RAMBLE AT THE GINNS' FARM**  
**Leaders: Ann and Jim Ginns**  
Meet: Front entrance of the Supreme Court Building, Wellington at Kent Street.  
This will be a general interest half-day trip to discover whatever birds, flowers (carpets of trilliums) and other forms of wildlife are present. Bring a lunch, binoculars, insect repellent and your favourite field guides. The outing will be cancelled in the event of rain.

**Sunday**  
**25 May**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**ELPHINS AND DUSKY WINGS BUTTERFLIES OF THE CONSTANCE BAY SANDHILLS AND THE CARP RIDGE**  
**Leader: Bob Bracken**  
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
This will be a full day quest for certain species located in specific habitats at this time of year. Bob will explain the intricate relationship between various plant species and communities and the life cycles of different Lepidoptera. Bring a lunch, comfortable footwear, a butterfly net (if you have one) and insect repellent (but not too much!).

- Sunday** **ECO-FAIR**  
**1 June** Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre.  
**10:00 a.m.** To mark the beginning of National Environment Week, the  
to Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee are holding their 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**3:00 p.m.** annual environmental fair. This year the theme will be  
wildlife. If you want to learn more about the animals we  
share the land with, then join us for a fun and informative  
day. There will be displays, handouts, items for sale and  
goodies. Bring your own mug if you can. Everyone is  
welcome.
- Saturday** **DAMSELS AND DRAGONS: SPRING FLIERS**  
**7 June** Leader: Bob Bracken  
**9:00 a.m.** Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the  
parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
This trip will provide a unique opportunity to observe and  
identify a variety of the common spring species of  
damselflies and dragonflies found in the vicinity of  
Constance Bay and the Thomas Dolan Parkway. Don't be  
shy ... come out and enjoy a different aspect of natural  
history in the Ottawa District. If you thought catching  
butterflies was difficult, then wait until you try netting a  
dragonfly! Please bring a lunch and a butterfly net (if you  
have one) for this generous half-day outing.
- Sunday** **BLUEBIRDS IN LANARK COUNTY**  
**8 June** Leader: Carson Thompson  
**8:00 a.m.** Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, south side,  
Carling Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.  
Participants will drive to the Perth Wildlife Preserve to be  
met by Carson Thompson who manages the property on  
behalf of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The  
group will proceed along an established bluebird trail,  
visiting the Mica Mines and Mill Pond Conservation Areas  
along the way. Carson will describe some of the recent  
habitat improvement projects he has been involved with in  
these locales. Many interesting species of birds, plants and  
insects should be encountered on the trip. Bring a lunch to  
enjoy in picturesque Lanark County.

Tuesday 10 June 8:00 p.m.	<b>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING</b> <b>NEWFOUNDLAND'S AVALON PENINSULA</b> Speaker: Pat Hunt Meet: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. Pat Hunt is a research geologist with the geochronology section of the Geological Survey of Canada, as well as an ardent nature photographer. The rugged natural beauty of the Avalon Peninsula will be the subject of her slide presentation, featuring the magnificent splendour of such magical places as Witless Bay, Cape St. Mary's and Bay Bulls. From the spy-hopping and breaching antics of humpback whales to the rich diversity of the seabird colonies, this is an evening that will appeal to all those fascinated by The Rock.
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Saturday 14 June 4:30 a.m.	<b>DAWN CHORUS AT THE RICHMOND FEN</b> Leader: Monty Brigham Meet: Tim Horton Donuts, south side of Robertson Road (i.e., Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Road turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners. A splendid opportunity to see and hear, in the company of an expert in the realm of nature recording, fascinating species of birds that breed in the woods on the periphery of the Richmond Fen. Waterproof footwear and insect repellent are absolutely essential for this outing.
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Saturday 21 June 9:00 a.m.	<b>FISH-WATCHING: A NEW PURSUIT FOR NATURALISTS</b> Leader: Bob Bracken Meet: Front entrance of the Supreme Court Building, Wellington at Kent Street. Learn how to identify some of our common species of fish by merely looking into the water. No, you don't have to capture them ... a pair of binoculars and a bit of patience are all that is required. At Pink Lake in Gatineau Park, the group will see the breeding stages of the fathead minnow, the northern redbelly dace and, possibly, the three-spined stickleback which is rare in the region. The trip will end up at the ponds at Andrew Haydon Park where a seine net will be employed (conditions being favourable) to provide participants with a close-up view of these often ignored vertebrates. Please leave your rod and reel at home on this half-day outing but bring along a sardine sandwich. The trip may be rescheduled if the weather conditions are poor.
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- Sunday** **VISIT TO THE PURDON FEN CONSERVATION AREA**  
**22 June** **Leaders:** Robina Bennett and Catherine O'Keefe  
**9:00 a.m.** **Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
The Purdon Fen in Lanark County is home to probably the largest colony of showy lady's slipper orchids in Canada. In addition to these beautiful orchids, participants will see the leafy white bog orchid, pitcher plant and many other interesting wildflowers. Bring a lunch for this long half-day outing. There may be an opportunity to canoe and swim in the afternoon.
- Sunday** **BUTTERFLIES OF THE SEASON AND WETLAND SPECIALTIES**  
**6 July** **Leader:** Bob Bracken  
**9:00 a.m.** **Meet:** Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.  
This all-day outing will visit several selected wetland habitats west of the city. Sedge skippers, Hairstreaks and Coppers will be encountered as well as some of the more elusive species such as the Baltimore. Bring a lunch, suitable footwear and a butterfly net, if you have one.
- Sunday** **FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP**  
**13 July** **Leader:** Bill Arthurs  
**1:00 p.m.** **Meet:** Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.  
This half-day outing will be a general botanical walk in the Mer Bleue Conservation Area with a special emphasis on some of the local fern species.
- Wednesday** **MID-WEEK INSECT WALK AROUND MER BLEUE**  
**16 July** **Leader:** Fenja Brodo  
**9:30 a.m.** **Meet:** Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.  
The boardwalk takes us over open water and across a sphagnum bog then into the woods and across a wildflower meadow. Along the way we hope to see a myriad of insects and study some of them closely with magnification. Bring a lunch, hat and insect repellent. If the weather is bad, participants are invited to the Brodo laboratory at 28 Benson St. to study pinned insects. Call Fenja at 723-2054 in the morning to confirm which trip is on.

**Sunday  
27 July  
9:00 a.m.**

**SHRUBS OF GATINEAU PARK**

**Leader: Bob Bracken**

**Meet: Front entrance of the Supreme Court Building,  
Wellington at Kent Street.**

Bob will lead a general outing to Champlain Lookout where participants will learn how to identify some of the more than 100 species of common and spectacular shrubs found within the Park and the Ottawa District. Other forms of plant life and natural history will be enjoyed on this informative half-day trip. Wear comfortable footwear and bring a lunch and any field guides you so desire.

**Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?**

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form—typed, written, printed or painted!

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***Trail & Landscape* Circulation**

*Michael Murphy*  
*Mailing Team Co-ordinator*

Circulation of Volume 31, Number 1, January-March 1997 was as follows: a total of 1,004 copies was mailed, 990 to members and subscribing libraries locally and across Canada, 12 to the United States and 2 to other foreign countries. □

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***DEADLINE: Material intended for the July-September 1997 issue should be in the editor's hands by May 15, 1997. Mail your manuscripts to:***

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